

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

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R 111011Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 979

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GUB INTEREST IN BILATERAL CONSULAR CONVENTION

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CONSOFF AND U SAW DOE SAITO, CHIEF, CONSULAR DIVISION, MFA, THE LATTER SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD THE EVENTUAL NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION (BURMA IS NOT REPEAT NOT A SIGNATORY OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION). SAW DOE SAITO WOULD BE OBLIGED TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM HIS SIDE TO ENGAGE IN EVEN INFORMAL, NON-BINDING DISCUSSIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT CONSOFF PROPOSE MEETING IN A LETTER WHICH HE COULD USE AS BASIS FOR OBTAINING SUCH CLEARANCE.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES A CONVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL, PARTICULARLY FOR PROTECTION AND WELFARE CASES. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARE ALREADY PROVIDED UNDER BURMESE DOMESTIC LEGISLATION, BUT WW MATTERS FALL INTO A FUZZY AREA. IN THE RECENT POUDRIER CASE, EMBASSY HAD TO FALL BACK ON LANGUAGE DEVISED BY DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH AMCIT ARRESTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING COLD WAR. ONLY OUR SUSTAINED DISPLAY OF ANNOYANCE OVER TIME INDUCED GUB OFFICIALS TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTION. CITABLE CONVENTION PROVISIONS, IT IS TRUE, MIGHT NOT HAVE FURNISHED AN IRONCLAD GUARANTEE OF CONSULAR ACCESS, BUT THEY SEEM PREFERABLE TO FALLING BACK ON LECTURES ON CIVILIZED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR. BURMA DOES NOT ATTRACT, OR ADMIT, LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICAN TOURISTS. OF THOSE WHO COME, HOWEVER, A HIGH PERCENTAGE ARE DETERMINEDLY UNCONVENTIONAL AND WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER ARREST

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CASES. EMBASSY IS UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO NEGOTIATION OF CONVENTION BUT THEY
APPEAR TO BE PREREQUISITE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN
EMBASSY'S DESPATCH OF LETTER SUGGESTING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS.
OSBORN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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